



## Cellar Mountain Fire WILDFIRE UPDATE

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/gwj/alerts-notice>  
<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4672/>

**Fire Information: 540-492-1901**  
Ted Coffman and Rebecca Robbins,  
Public Information Officers

*USDA Forest Service  
George Washington & Jefferson  
National Forests  
Glenwood and Pedlar  
Ranger Districts*

**Tuesday, March 22, 2016  
1:00 PM**

<b>Current Status</b>	The Cellar Mountain Fire is located on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests within Saint Mary's Wilderness in Augusta County, VA approximately 10 miles east of the town of Raphine, and west of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Firefighters continue to improve containment lines around the fire perimeter.
<b>Counties</b>	Augusta County, VA
<b>Estimated Acreage</b>	Approximately 706 acres. Acreage estimates have decreased due to more accurate mapping
<b>Containment</b>	The fire is approximately 75% contained.
<b>Cause and Date Started</b>	The cause of this fire is under investigation. The fire was first reported at approximately 3:00 PM on Thursday, March 17, 2016.
<b>Resources on the Fire</b>	25 firefighters including one Hotshot handcrew, and one wildland engine
<b>Cooperators</b>	Augusta County Fire-Rescue, Virginia Department of Forestry, and National Park Service - Blue Ridge Parkway
<b>Restrictions and Closures</b>	Use caution and obey all road and trail closures for your safety. Sections of the Coal Road (Forest Road #42) are temporarily closed both due to ongoing road work and fire activities. Saint Mary's Road (FR #41) is temporarily closed.  All trails within Saint Mary's Wilderness are temporarily closed, including: St. Mary's Trail (Forest Trail #500); St. Mary's Gorge Trail (FT #500B); Mine Bank Creek Trail (FT #500C); Mine Bank Mountain Trail (FT #503); Bald Mountain Overlook Trail (FT #504). Also closed are trailheads associated with these trails including: Lower St. Mary's trailhead at end of St. Mary's Road; Cellar Mountain trailhead on Coal Road (FR# 42); and Mine Bank trailhead at Blue Ridge Parkway.
<b>Plans for Today</b>	Firefighters will continue to monitor the fire and improve containment lines by extinguishing or removing burning material from the fire perimeter.
<b>Fire weather</b>	Today temperatures will increase to a high near 55 under sunny skies with southwest winds at seven to 12 mph. Minimum Relative Humidity is 38%. Tonight's expected low temperature is 42.
<b>Other Fire Information</b>	The top priority of fire managers is firefighter and public safety. Driving visibility may be limited in the fire vicinity due to smoky conditions. Area residents and visitors may smell smoke for several days.